

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7652

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, SOCI

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE FOR PEACE

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 7556 (B) SANTIAGO 7357

1. SUMMARY: ORTHODOX CHURCH WITHDRAWS FROM PEACE COMMITTEE. MORE COMMITTEE ASSOCIATES DETAINED. COMMITTEE'S CURRENT AND FUTURE STATUS IS UNCERTAIN, WITH GOC LIKELY TO USE RECENT EVENTS AS JUSTIFICATION FOR MORE CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL PRESS NOVEMBER 10 REPORTED WITHDRAWAL OF ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CHILE FROM LOCAL INTERDENOMINATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR PEACE. IN FORMAL LETTER OF WITHDRAWAL TO COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ORTHODOX CHURCH LEADER BASED ACTION ON TWO POINTS: RECENT ASSISTANCE TO FUGITIVE TERRORISTS BY CATHOLIC CHURCH COMMITTEE MEMBER (REF A), AND FACT THAT COMMITTEE STAFF HAS NOT INFORMED MEMBERS CONCERNING RECENT UTILIZATION OF FUNDS OBTAINED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES. LETTER ALSO LAMENTED FACT THAT COMMITTEE DECISIONS ARE NOW BEING MADE BY ONLY TWO OR THREE PERSONS, WHEREAS PUBLIC STILL BELIEVES ALL REPRESENTED CHURCHES ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH COMMITTEE POLICY.

3. NOVEMBER 11 PRESS REPORTED THE NOVEMBER 8 ARRESTS OF
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FATHER JAIME PATRICIO GAJARDO INFANTA, CHAPLAIN OF A

WOMEN'S CORRECTION HOME, AND TWO WOMEN ASSISTANTS. GAJARDO REPORTEDLY WAS ARRESTED FOR BEING MESSENGER AND CONTACT POINT BETWEEN COMMITTEE FOR PEACE AND DETAINEES. GOC INFORMATION SERVICE CLAIMED COMMITTEE HAD ORGANIZED DETAINEES TO CREATE SMALL HANDMADE GOODS AND WAS SELLING THESE GOODS TO OBTAIN FUNDS FOR COMMITTEE WORK. PRESS ARTICLE ALSO REPORTED RECENT ARREST OF COMMITTEE FOR PEACE SOCIAL WORKER, BETTY DEL CARMEN WALKER CASANOVA, IN SMALL TOWN JUST SOUTH OF SANTIAGO. SHE REPORTEDLY WAS INTERVIEWING FAMILIES OF DETAINEES AND, ACCORDING TO GOC SOURCE, WAS OBTAINING INFORMATION FOR COMMITTEE TO USE IN PRESENTING PETITIONS TO COURTS.

4. COMMENT: COMING ON HEELS OF SUCCESSFUL SECOND ANNI-VERSARY CELEBRATION (REF B), WHICH GAVE COMMITTEE A NEEDED BOOST IN MORALE, RECENT EVENTS INVOLVING CHILEAN PRIESTS AND FUGITIVE LEADERS OF MOVEMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR) HAVE BEEN HARD BLOW TO COMMITTEE'S STANDING. QUESTION ARISES OF ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN FUTURE.

5. BESIDES ORTHODOX CHURCH WITHDRAWAL, MAINSTREAM OF LUTHERAN COMMUNITY IS NO LONGER REPRESENTED, NOR ARE OTHER PENTECOSTAL AND EVANGELICAL CHURCHES WHICH HELPED CREATE COMMITTEE. METHODIST REPRESENTATIVE REMAINS, BUT MEMBERS OF HIS CONGREGATION HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE DOES NOT REPRESENT THEM. GOC PROHIBITED COMMITTEE CO-PRESIDENT HELMUT FRENZ FROM RE-ENTERING CHILE. THE CARDINAL'S REPRESENTATIVE, JESUIT PATRICIO CARIOLA, IS AT LARGE AND APPARENTLY WANTED BY GOC FOR ASSISTING MIR FUGITIVES. JEWISH COMMUNITY'S REPRESENTATIVE, RABBI KREIMAN, HAS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED TO EMBOFF HIS COMMUNITY'S RELUCTANCE TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES. THIS RELUCTANCE WILL NOW BECOME MORE PRO-NOUNCED.

6. THE COMMITTEE'S CURRENT AND FUTURE STATUS IS THEREFORE UNCERTAIN. ONCE THE PRESENT OUTCRY CEASES, THE COMMITTEE MAY BE ABLE TO CARRY ON ITS WORK. IT NO LONGER IS REPRESENTATIVE OF MOST LOCAL CHURCH GROUPS, HOWEVER, AND IS MORE THAN EVER SOLELY AN ARM OF THE CATHOLIC

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CHURCH. MOREOVER, IT IS NOW IDENTIFIED IN PUBLIC EYE WITH MARXISTS. THE GOC HAS MADE NO SECRET OF ITS DISLIKE FOR THE COMMITTEE, AND IS LIKELY TO USE RECENT EVENTS AS JUSTIFICATION FOR A MORE CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES. MOST RECENT ARRESTS OF FOUR COMMITTEE ASSOCIATES, WHO APPEARED ONLY TO BE CARRYING OUT ACCEPTED FUNCTIONS OF COMMITTEE, MAY BE INDICATIVE OF NEW GOC ATTITUDE.

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